

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for managing privacy preferences or access to restricted information, comprising:

tagging restricted or personal information in a content object to distinguish the restricted or personal information from an unrestricted portion of the object content;

defining the content object to include the unrestricted portion of the object content in a mark-up language and a link to the restricted or personal information, wherein the content object comprises one of a white paper, a case study, a press release, and an article by an author, wherein the unrestricted portion of the content object including includes a title, an abstract, and a description, and wherein the restricted information comprises personal identification information of the author;

storing the content object in a federated content repository;

storing the personal idcntification information of the author in a separate storage device from the federated content repository;

receiving a request for information by a collection function on a server;

interrogating a plurality of content sources remote from the server by the collection function to retrieve information to satisfy the request;

collecting the content object from a respective onc the plurality of content sources containing the content object in response to the content object being responsive to the request;

distributing the content object to a privacy function on the server;

parsing the content object by the privacy function to provide access to the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences of the author or owner of the content object in response to the content object being collccted to satisfy [[a]] the request, wherein the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences are remote from the server and are accessed by a secure link;

comparing the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences of the author or owner of the content object to policies of the content provider by a compare function of the privacy function; and

distributing the content object based on the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences.

2. – 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising locating or accessing the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences using another link.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~ 1, further comprising distributing the content object to a requester without any modification to the content object in response to the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences of the author or owner of the content object being consistent with the content provider's policies.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~ 1, further comprising:

deleting or replacing the restricted or personal information with default or generic information in response to the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences of the author or owner of the content object being inconsistent with the content provider's policies;

repackaging the content object in response to deleting or replacing the restricted or personal information; and

distributing the repacked content object to a requester without the restricted or personal information which has been deleted or replaced by the default or generic information.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for managing privacy or access to restricted information, comprising:

collecting a content object responsive to a request by a collection function on a server, wherein the content object is stored in a federated content repository and personal identification information of an author of the content object is stored in a separate storage device from the federated content repository;

accessing privacy preferences or other restriction preferences of an the author or owner of the content object, wherein the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences are remote from the server;

comparing the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences of the author or owner of the content object to the content provider's policies;

replacing private or restricted information with default or generic information in response to the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences being inconsistent with the content provider's policies, wherein the content provider collects the content object and has access to the private or restricted information;

repackaging the content object in response to replacing the private or restricted information; and

distributing the repackaged content object to a requester without the private or restricted information.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising distributing the content object as originally constituted in response to the privacy preferences or other restriction preferences being consistent with the content provider's policies.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising distributing any content object in response to the request to a privacy function.

21. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising parsing the content object to provide access to privacy preferences or other restriction preferences.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising locating or accessing the privacy preferences or restriction preferences using a link.

23. – 45. (Cancelled)